AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A system for accelerated TCP and iSCSI protocol processing in hardware, the system comprising:

a storage network processor (SNP) configured to offload at least some packet processing tasks from a general purpose processor associated with a host device, the storage network processor further comprising:

a hardware-accelerated receive module configured to receive TCP network packets;

a hardware-accelerated TCP and iSCSI protocol processing chip configured to process both TCP network packets and iSCSI instructions embedded in TCP network packets, wherein processing of iSCSI instructions embedded in TCP network packets includes offloading common case iSCSI instructions embedded in TCP network packets to process and resolve the embedded iSCSI instructions in hardware;

a hardware-accelerated transmit module configured to transmit TCP network packets; and

~~The system of Claim 21 further comprising,~~ a remote memory channel used to transfer data and meta-data to a partner storage controller to provide at least a degree of fault tolerance.

37. (Original) The system of Claim 36 wherein storage data may be re-created on the partner storage controller.

38. (New) A system for accelerated TCP and iSCSI protocol processing in hardware, the system comprising:

a storage network processor (SNP) configured to offload at least some packet processing tasks from a general purpose processor associated with a host device, the storage network processor further comprising:

a hardware-accelerated receive module configured to receive TCP network packets;

a hardware-accelerated TCP and iSCSI protocol processing chip configured to process both TCP network packets and iSCSI instructions embedded in TCP network packets, wherein processing of iSCSI instructions embedded in TCP network packets includes offloading common case iSCSI instructions embedded in TCP network packets to process and resolve the embedded iSCSI instructions in hardware;

a hardware-accelerated transmit module configured to transmit TCP network packets; and

a memory channel used to transfer data and meta-data to a partner storage controller to provide at least a degree of fault tolerance.

39. (New) The system of Claim 38 wherein storage data may be re-created on the partner storage controller.